THE HOLD UP

by
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FADE IN:

EXT. OUTSIDE MINIMART - NIGHT

CHUA, a young Chinese man in a t-shirt and shorts paces up and down the aisle outside the mini-mart. He looks worried. Another young CHINESE MAN walks into the frame and enters the mini-mart. The place is deserted and the only light available is from a street-lamp nearby. Chua's girlfriend, CINDY is squatting against the wall, smoking. She looks bored.

CINDY
When you want to do? Next year is it?

CHUA
(nervously)
You...you...shut up can? I'm thinking...

CINDY
If you don't want to do it...don't do it! Don't try to act macho in front of me! So pathetic...

CHUA
Shut up!

Cindy looks away rolling her eyes and takes a puff from her cigarette.

INT. MINIMART - NIGHT

No one is in the store except for the old INDIAN MAN at the counter and the Chinese man who had just walked in. His name is CHRIS. He has a black eye. He's lurking at the back of the store behind some shelves.

He reaches into his back pocket and brings out a small pistol. He looks at it nervously.

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE OF SHOTS

1) Chris is confronted by TWO MEN earlier in the day.

2) One of them hands him a pistol.

3) Chris refuses.

4) He punches Chris in the eye and pulls him by the neck of his t-shirt to growl in his face.

5) The other man laughs and shoves the pistol into Chris’s back pocket

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE MINIMART – NIGHT

Cindy flicks her finished cigarette away.

CINDY
Faster lah...I want to go home

Chua stops pacing and looks at her. Taking a deep breath, he walks towards the door. He pulls out a Magnum from his pocket and puts his hand on the door to open it.

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE OF SHOTS

1) Chua is having an argument with his FATHER at home earlier in the day

2) Chua’s BROTHER tries to stop them

3) Chua’s father slaps him and Chua pushes him to the ground in anger

4) Chua’s brother goes into a fit and throws him out of the house

5) Chua meets up with a friend later in the day; he is begging him for something

6) His friend looks reluctant but finally relents and hands him a Magnum

CUT TO:

INT. MINIMART – NIGHT

Chua walks into the store quietly with gun in hand. The Indian man at the counter is oblivious to him.

Chris moves quickly to the front of the store with his pistol aimed at the Indian man.

Chua walks up to the counter from the door with his Magnum pointed at the Indian man.

CHUA/CHRIS
Hands up!!

The two men wheel around to face each other. They turn to look at the Indian man at the counter. He looks back at them in shock and shoots his hands up into the air. The two men suddenly aim their weapons at each other.

CHRIS
Who are you??

CHUA
Who are YOU!?

CHRIS
Don’t play with me ah! What are you doing here!

CHUA
I...I here to steal the money!

CHRIS
Fuck you lah! Get out now!!

CHUA
Why...why should I! You get out lah! My gun bigger than yours!

CHRIS
Look...if you don’t get out now, I’ll kill him.

CHUA
(beat)
No...no...brother...listen...I want the money...you also want the money...we just split the money ok?

CHRIS
Your head! Get out NOW!!

CHUA
Please lah brother! I kena kick out of my house...I no money!

CHRIS
I don’t care!! GET OUT!

CHUA
Come on lah brother...pity me...my girlfriend outside waiting for me...if I go out of here without any money, she sure break up with me one!

CHRIS
(sighs)
If I don’t get out of here with the money, I’ll get killed. Which one is worse?

CHUA
We split the money lah?? Fifty-fifty!

CHRIS
(softly)
Get out now.

CHUA
Sixty-forty?

Chris gives him a look.

CHUA (CONT’D)
Seventy-thirty...Eighty-twenty!! PLEASE!!

Suddenly, the door opens. It’s Cindy. Both men panic. Chris takes aim at her. Chua jumps in front of him to save his girlfriend and shoots at him. Chua’s bullet catches in Chris’s chest. Chua gets shot between his eyes. Both men crumple to the ground, dead.

Cindy screams and runs out of the store.

Silence grips the store.

The old man leans over the counter and looks at the bloody corpses. He sighs and slumps back into his chair.

FADE OUT.